

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2004

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I N S I D E

See NORITA on Page 8

See HOUSE on Page 8

Local Milestones

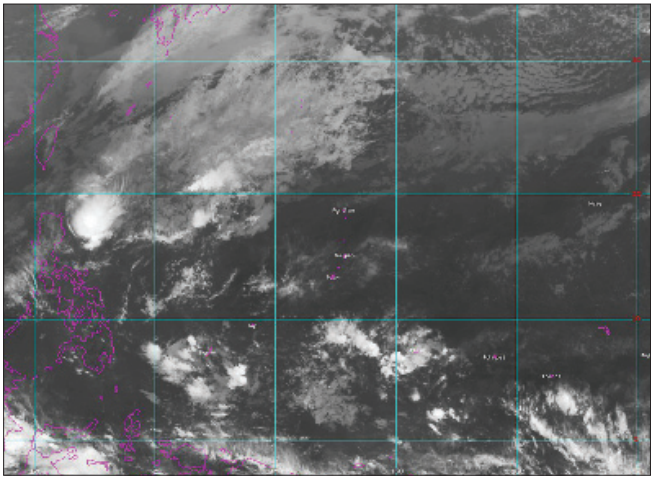
SAIPANCELL
CMYK

CARS UNLIMITED

CENTURY TRAVEL


COMMUNITY *Briefs*

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8n from 130e to 153 and between the Equator and 6n from 160e to 180. A cold front stretches from 25n161e to 20n146e and continues as a shear line to 19n130e. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12n and 18n from 132e to 150e. This area includes the Mariana Islands.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




PALAU
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.






















KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

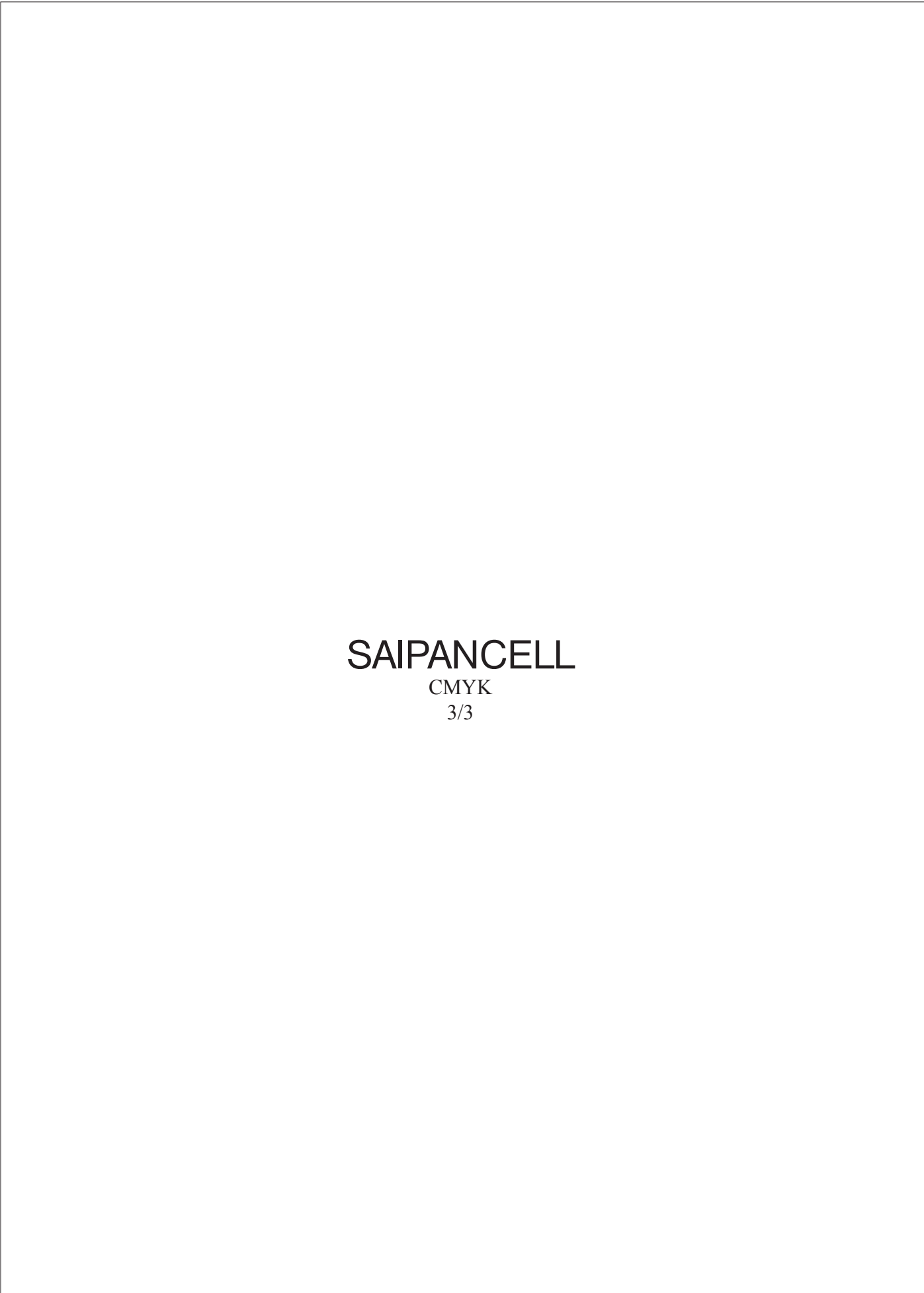


CHUUK
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
 Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
 Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
 London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
 Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
 Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
 New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
 Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
 Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
 Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
 Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
 Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)



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3/3

The war effort



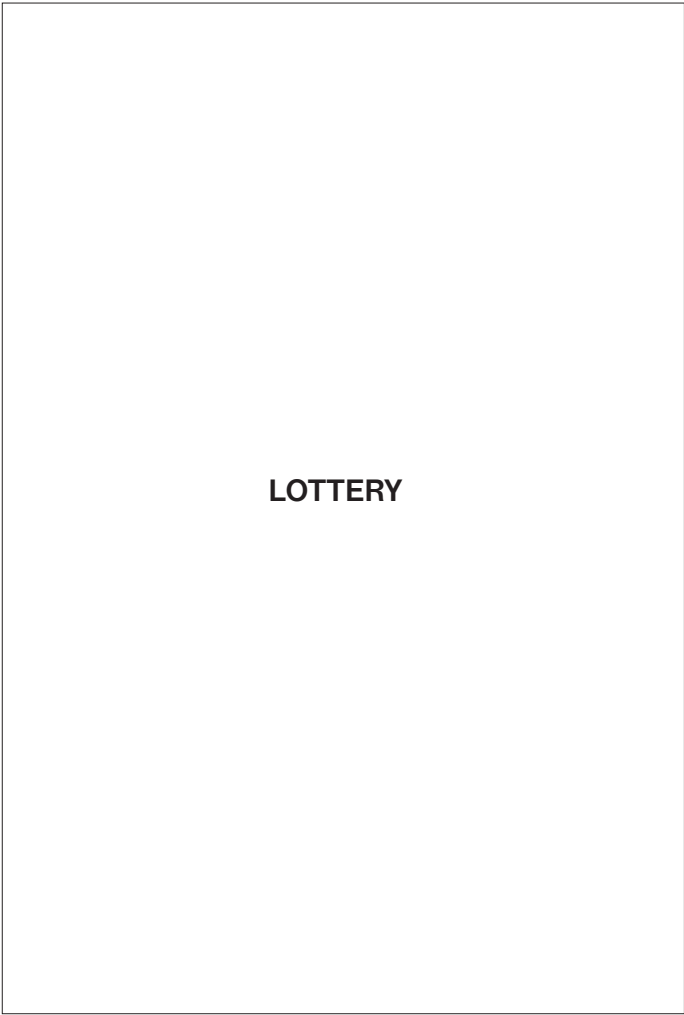
By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Military Historical Cartographer



VERIZON 611
CMYK

See *THE WAR* on Page 7





LOTTERY



KELLYS PLACE
CMYK

Lay says others destroyed Enron

HOUSTON (AP)—Former Enron Corp. chairman Kenneth Lay took responsibility for the company’s spectacular demise but blamed any criminal acts on underlings in a wide-ranging interview with The New York Times.

“I take full responsibility for what happened at Enron,” Lay said in his first unrestricted interview since the company declared bankruptcy amid myriad accounting scandals in December 2001. “But saying that, I know in my mind that I did nothing criminal.”

In an article posted on the Times’ Web site Saturday, Lay also said he believes his first-name relationship with President Bush will prove to be a liability as prosecutors reportedly weigh criminal charges against the former chairman.

“If anything, being friends with the Bush family, including the president, has made my situation more difficult,” Lay said, “because it’s probably a tougher decision not to indict me than to indict me.”

Lay, a major fund-raiser in Bush’s 2000 campaign, is considered in prosecutors’ crosshairs because he is the last well-known Enron figure to have escaped charges so far.

Former chief executive Jeffrey Skilling is under indictment and former finance chief Andrew Fastow pleaded guilty and accepted a 10-year prison term in exchange for his cooperation.

Lay, 62, said he understands why outsiders are focused on him even though attorney Michael Ramsey said earlier this month he doesn’t believe his client will be indicted.

Asked if he would consider pleading guilty to anything, he responded “absolutely not.”

In more than six hours of interviews with the Times at Lay’s downtown Houston office, he placed most of the blame for the scandal on Fastow, who prosecutors say was the main architect of several Byzantine schemes that eventually were called into question.

Lay acknowledged, however, that he and his board signed off on maneuvers that ultimately became troublesome for the Houston-based energy trader. The board took the unusual step of allowing Fastow to have a business conflict with Enron by operating an investment fund that did business with the company and financed some Fastow-related partnerships.

Now that there is evidence Fastow used the complex constructions to manipulate Enron’s balance sheet and enrich himself, Lay said it’s easy to criticize the latitude Fastow was granted.

“At the time it seemed the appropriate thing to do,” he said.

Sources involved in the investigation said the main accusation against Lay is that he promoted Enron stock to employees and others even as he was selling as its share price began to tumble in late 2001.

Lay’s attorney, however, has maintained that the sales were

triggered automatically by lenders, and a Times review of Lay’s trading records shows he did his best to keep as many

shares as possible.

Lay characterized himself as one of the “98 percent of the people who worked at Enron”

who were “good, honest, hard-working individuals.”

He placed Fastow among the other 2 percent.

“We had a chief financial officer and a few other people who in fact mismanaged the company’s balance sheet and finances and enriched themselves in a way that once we got into a stressful environment in the marketplace, the company collapsed,” he said.

Lay said he recalled meeting with executive Sherron Watkins, who warned him about the accounting issues that eventually torpedoed the company, shortly after Lay retook the CEO’s reins when Skilling abruptly resigned in August 2001.

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EDITORIAL

A dialogue on prison reform

Black men in America have a one-in-three chance of landing in prison in their lifetime. That chilling pronouncement and the fact that one in three black men in their 20s is either imprisoned, jailed, on probation or on parole cries out for a national dialogue on prison reform.

Those who think otherwise should consider these statistics: American prisons hold 2.1 million people, about a quarter of the world's prison population. It costs more than \$40 billion a year to house prisoners in the United States. Whites accounted for 71 percent of youths arrested for crimes nationally in 1997, but only 37 percent of those who were detained.

Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy began the conversation a year ago, ticking off many of those same disturbing points. And now a new report on America's "lock 'em up" sentencing policies offers even more proof that the criminal justice system has veered off course. The crushing weight of mandatory sentencing policies has incarcerated swaths of society, devoured great sums of money and devastated communities and families along the way.

And America isn't necessarily safer because of it. The report, issued by a special commission of the American Bar Association, calls for an end to mandatory sentences and promotes diversion programs for less-serious offenses -- positions this newspaper has strongly endorsed in the past.

The ABA report provides compelling evidence for reforming the way we punish criminals: racial disparity in sentences, the adverse impact of mandatory sentences on first-time offenders, the dearth of rehabilitation programs in prison. They affect not only the incarcerated but also the families they leave behind, as generations of children grow up without parents.

Rectifying that tear in the fabric of America poses enormous challenges that require enormous amounts of human and financial capital. But tackling this issue has everything to do with the future of this country. California imprisons about 160,000 a year at an annual cost of \$27,000 per prisoner. Compare that with the \$5,000 that state school systems spend to educate a child each year.

Are Californians getting their money's worth? Obviously not. And neither are many Americans across this country. The ABA report comes as many states, reeling from budget deficits, are reconsidering their sentencing and prison policies. California, for one, has an initiative on its November ballot that would restrict to violent offenders its wide-ranging three-strikes-and-you're-out law. A recent poll found 76 percent of Californians are for it, about the same percentage that approved the law in 1994. The pendulum is definitely swinging back toward a reasonable approach in sentencing.

Maryland has been on the right side of this issue. State public safety chief Mary Ann Saar's plan to divert non-violent offenders into treatment and community programs will free up state dollars to support those services and leave Maryland's prisons for the most incorrigible offenders. And that's how it should be, for the public's safety and the future of the state.

(c) 2004, The Baltimore Sun

Opinion



He fought the law, and the law won

By **LARRY DUDLEY HIIBEL**
Special to the Los Angeles Times

A lot of people want to know why I went all the way to the Supreme Court rather than give my name to a policeman. "What's so important about that?" they ask. "What's the big principle at stake?" And last week, when the Supreme Court ruled against me, maybe some thought I was foolish to have done it. But I still think I did the right thing and that there were some issues that had to be decided.

The story began May 21, 2000, when I was on a rural road near my ranch in Winnemucca, Nev. My daughter and I had gotten into an argument. She was driving, and I was the passenger. We stopped by the side of the road, parked legally, and we continued our argument. I figured we would finish it out and then cool off for a moment.

That's when I heard sirens, and all of a sudden a police car drove up. A deputy walked up to me and demanded my "papers." I asked him what the problem was. "Why do you guys have me surrounded?" I asked, because by now there were two or three more police cars. He refused to explain why he was there or why he wanted my papers. Eleven times he demanded my identification. I refused to give it to him each time, and he finally handcuffed me and took me to jail. The cops threw my daughter on the ground, cuffed her hands behind her and demanded her name as well, but by that time I was on my way to the county jail. I got there at midafternoon and stayed overnight.

I hadn't been argumentative; I wasn't picking a fight. Basically, when Deputy Dove demanded my papers—and he didn't ask for them, he demanded them—I didn't say, "Hey cop, I'm not going to give you nothing." I just asked why he wanted them. "What have I done?" I asked. If he'd explained what he was doing there, perhaps it could have been settled on the spot. But his position was that he wanted the papers first.

Here's why this was so important to me: I don't believe that the authorities in the United States of America are supposed to walk up to you and ask for your papers. I thought that wasn't lawful. Apparently I was wrong, but I thought that that was part of what we were guaranteed under the Constitution. We're supposed to be free men,

able to walk freely in our own country—not hampered, not stopped at checkpoints. That's part of what makes this country different from other places. That's what I was taught.

And it's not just because it's in the Constitution. It's something that you just kind of know. It's kind of obvious. If you haven't committed a crime, you shouldn't be harassed by the police. If they suspect you of something, I don't see why they shouldn't explain it. I wasn't violent. And it was proved later in court that I hadn't committed any crimes.

These days, it's like we're all guilty until proved innocent. You walk into an airport and everybody's a suspect. Like the way people were treated in Soviet Russia, in Red China, in Castro's Cuba.

We don't want the United States to become that.

I don't have a super-clear understanding of the Constitution. I'm not an attorney. I've never even read the whole thing. I only went through eighth grade. But I remember what I learned, and it seems to me that the whole idea of "your-papers-please" goes completely against the grain of the American people.

As I understood it, the state was supposed to serve us—not that we were supposed to serve the state. Laws were supposed to protect the people against the government, not the other way around.

Maybe in Los Angeles and other places across the country, the police have browbeaten the people into more acceptance of this police state mentality than where I am. I live out on a ranch, the nearest town is 30 miles away, and it only has 7,000 or 8,000 people. I think that has an effect on our mentality.

It's not that I'm anti-law enforcement. Criminals should be apprehended. But I don't think we've got to take everybody's rights away just so that we can be safe. If you do that, you've defeated your purpose. I don't think people want to be protected to the extent that they become slaves.

I'm very disappointed by this decision. I think a basic freedom has been lost. What bothers me the most is that my children and grandchildren are going to have to live with this law. It moves us a step closer to control of the people by the government, and I don't think that's a step forward.

Hiibel, a cattle rancher, was the plaintiff in Hiibel v. Nevada, which was recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Web tears down the wall around secrets

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

The great Internet secret is that truly big secrets are dead. Imagine the power and cunning secreted within those who decided to commit sex on Iraqi prisoners—to say nothing of a formidable Department of Defense blinding our eyes to the coffins of our own war dead. And yet, almost immediately we could see the images ourselves on the Web. They're uploaded on sites like "the memory hole" and "robert-fisk.com," and by "embedded" reporters (official and unofficial), by families with members suffering abroad, and by cranky writers who can't find a friendly editor.

This same revolution is hidden within the attempt to distort or conceal the past of any politician running for office. John Kerry's war records are now publicly visible, down to the signature on his enlistment form. Or the precise figures of civilian casualties in Iraq, rarely mentioned in the press.

Nevertheless we remain stubbornly blind—all of us, not only the habit-chained media—to the radical nature of the Net. We still haven't figured out how personal, detailed and accessible it has become to everyone, not just high-brow nerds.

We're facing not just a two-way information flow, not just an "information highway" and an instant fund-raiser, but a hydra-headed digital angel—or monster. This spring we began to hear that the Internet is at last competing with TV and the press. But the Web isn't simply one more "medium," one more extension of CBS or USA Today. Our Net is an activist tool, as different from flashy TV news and political ads as vintage wine is from Coca-Cola.

Simple messages—Kerry is a bogus hero, torture at Abu Ghraib is the invention of just five deluded soldiers—won't work. Why? Five minutes on Google or Yahoo offers us hundreds of angles and original documents on any single story. The other night, for example, I looked up the press' favorite scapegoat for Abu Ghraib, Pfc. Lynndie England, a petite young woman who dragged nude prisoners around on the end of a leash—and found some 4,000 fact-opinion entries, including her own testimony that she had been ordered to wield that leash and drag one poor victim around for "five to six hours."

The Web turns slick headlines into unbelievable complexity—that is, reality. We now know everything about Kerry's stop-go-fight-stop attitude toward Vietnam: how he saved lives, took shrapnel in his leg, turned against the war later, with millions of others, when he saw the true clumsiness of our strategy.

The ability to sniff out the "mass mind" potential in any story is no longer the beginning and end of journalism. If the media treat the readers/viewers like children, they'll lose credibility fast. That's why they have to wake up to the meaning of the ubiquitous search engine. Surely it will impact on the raw, writhing election campaign facing us and stimulate a large, impassioned turnout. And the researcher-citizen who knows how to find it all is the key in the lock. We don't need a Michael Moore, whose film tells about the ties between the Bushes and the Saudi royal family, or even a Douglas Brinkley, whose packed biography of Kerry tells us little-known stories about the candidate's facile, multi-lingual father.

Little Brother, in brief, is swamping Big Media Brother. He could be the signal rebuff to our traditional view of political campaigns—that most American voters remain disinterested until the last month, jarred only by the TV debates, acting out of emotion and prejudice rather than sophisticated political calculus. For years this nonsense has been quietly contradicted by serious studies of "exit polls." Even pre-Internet, the Americans who actually turned out to vote were and are informed, impassioned and rather contemptuous of electronic news.

When we heard the Defense Department had "forbidden" images of dead soldiers, we flocked to see them on the Web. When we heard that hostage Kim Sun Il had been killed in Iraq, we opened Al-Jazeera's home page.

We may use the Web each day for countless practical reasons, but at night it's ready—we're ready—to sample chats, distant lands and languages—even specialized lodes of information such as the legal memos given to our White House more than a year ago, justifying "stress" torture. The point is that the Web reader-viewer-investigators can choose to be committed, to go after their own passions, not just accept passively what others offer. If this means voting in 2004 is going to be more difficult to predict, more rambunctious, more committed by a group of decentralized, self-driven men and women, let it be.

If this further means our minds are changing, in the most unexpected manner, let that be, too. If we knew what's coming, as Stephen Hawking, our quantum Einstein, lately said, we'd miss the thrill of the surprises constantly forced upon us by a risk-rich God.

Davis is an artist, writer and visiting professor and distinguished scholar at Louisiana State University.

Building a home where each one can belong

I was going to write about the recent summer blockbuster movie *The Day After Tomorrow* that had double screening on island recently but the initial furor created nationally allegedly by the political left had died down and an online poll of reviews pointed to a 46 percent rotten tomato rating. Even the reluctantly approving within the 54 percent agreed that though the cinematography was great, the acting consisted of cardboard personalities, and the science at best is a predictable consignment to the sci-fi channel archives.

The core issue of what humans are doing to the environment and the consequent result of detrimental acts of commissions and benign omissions, however, was dramatically exclaimed (as opposed to merely exclaimed!). Given that the normal summer of our discontent is also often simultaneously accompanied by our ruminations about our viable social ethics and our possibly effecting authentic social transformations, now that wo/man-come-of-age has decided that s/he has cosmic permission to participate in the evolutionary process, lends the lazy days of summer to various journeys of the intellect and the imagination.

Societies are essentially conservative, even when their survival is at stake. The illusions of Pleasantville, USA is after all a national phenomenon of which Saipan is not an exclusion. Pricking our consciousness over relevant and urgent issues is a feat and a chore. Social commentaries worth their digital count must at least point us to humanity's prevailing edge thinking.

The recently concluded Pacific Islands Environment Conference held in Saipan that attracted political executive officers did manage to touch solid waste management and power consumption in the Pacific Basin nations and States. It was a bureaucrat's dream conference where, if past experiences are to be a norm, inspirational talks were aired, a lot of good intentions were expressed, and research studies are to be formulated. The latter when completed are bound and delivered to public agency and academic libraries and shelves which may or may not influence policy deliberations. An old environmentalist's joke states that the latest study on coral reef management is the only thing that managed to remain in pristine condition in our local CRM office. Columnist Ruth Tighe of this paper's Sunday edition offered a more upbeat perspective on the conference.

Sci-Fi movies like *The Day After Tomorrow* do manage to call our attention to such mundanities as climate change and watching the Weather Channel, an activity Yap might have begun picking up since the virginal epiphany of a typhoon occurred this year. Recognition Day for the 6th Graders at San Vicente Elementary School included the singing of the Class song, *The Courage to Care*. The song, sang to the tune of the movie theme of *Chariots of Fire*, went like this:

Our world in transition, old forms torn apart
Creates a new vision, demands a new heart.
A new world is crushing the one that we knew
Our minds barely touching the change rushing through.

But ours is a dream that gives our world a vision to care.

Timely advice from the past

Edmund Burke, the greatest British political writer of the 18th century, was a principled opponent of wars and revolutions. Hatred of violence and love of liberty were the central motives of his work, and sudden political change, whether imposed from above or below, from within a country or by an external force, inevitably produced an increase of violence and a loss of liberty. Above all, Burke opposed wars that were entered into from choice and not necessity.

The pertinence of Burke's thinking to the crisis in Iraq, as the United States seeks to impose a good revolution by force of arms on a large portion of the Arab world, requires little comment in view of the startling aptness of his words.

A "Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol," from which all of the passages below are taken, was composed in early 1777 when Burke was a member of Parliament from Bristol. England then appeared to be winning the war with America, yet Burke was alarmed by the means his country employed (for example, its reliance on mercenaries) and deeply skeptical regarding the announced purpose of the war: the projection of British power into America in order to subdue the resistance of the colonists. Burke recognized that King George III's prime minister, Lord North, had consistently underestimated the number of troops that would be required. North and his administration, the "king's men," had persuaded themselves that America was full of friends who would welcome the stabilizing authority of British arms as soon as a determined show of force was offered.

By JAIME VERGARA

Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.



And ours is a hope that gives our island courage to dare.

*Sing out of a dream that gives our world a mission to share.
Live out of the hope that gives our children courage to care.*

Saipan is our island, a few thousand strong,
We're building a home where each one can belong.
Our village prepared us, we're getting along,
Compassion consumes us, all history long.

*Hold on to the dream that gives our world a vision to care.
And cherish the hope that gives our island courage to dare.*

*Sing out of a dream that gives our world a mission to share.
Live out of the hope that gives our children courage to care.*

*If ever a singer were needed to sing,
If ever a dreamer were needed to dream,
If ever a people were called on to stand,
It's surely this moment; it's surely this land.*

*... a vision to care, ... the courage to dare
... a mission to share, ... the courage to care.*

These lines could easily be dismissed as just another liberal "good feel" song to feed on the incipient idealism of emerging youth. Maybe. I suspect that the children, when hearing the popular tune, will recall cleaning up Lau Lau Bay and planting grass on a portion of Beach Road pathway as part of a simple demonstration of a management best practice in curtailing non-point source pollution into the Saipan Lagoon. My description is a mouthful; their memory would be more audio-visually portrayed in sweat, juvenile jeers and youthful cheers.

This soon to be retired curmudgeon, who pedagogically catalyzes the singing of such songs as the above, and facilitates the accompanying activities related to it, take such measures as a reminder that life happens before the social security benefit kicks in. And it happens way beyond just chasing the illusive four-bedroom suburban Fannie Mae dream, with 2.5 kids and two streamlined black gold guzzling sports utility vehicles in the garage.

I suggest that the human adventure in our time is the expenditure of one's life in creating the vision of a viable social ethics and facilitating effective social transformations. Let's follow this thought-course the rest of the summer.

By DAVID BROMWICH

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Bromwich is editor of *On Empire, Liberty and Reform: Speeches and Letters of Edmund Burke* (Yale University Press, 2000).



This was not the first mistake of North and his administration. Burke believed that their preference for force over diplomacy had been the cause of the war. Why did they do it?

"Let them but once get us into a war, and then their power is safe, and an act of oblivion passed for all their misconduct."

"Has any of these gentlemen, who are so eager to govern all mankind, shown himself possessed of the first qualification towards government, some knowledge of the object, and of the difficulties which occur in the task they have undertaken?"

"They promise their private fortunes, and they mortgage their country. They have all the merit of volunteers, without the risk of person or charge of contribution."

"They are continually boasting of unanimity, or calling for it. But before this unanimity can be matter either of wish or congratulation,

See **TIMELY** on Page 12

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TIMELY

From Page 11

we ought to be pretty sure that we are engaged in a rational pursuit.”

By a recent act of Parliament, England had suspended the protection of habeas corpus. Persons accused of treason in America could now be transported to England and jailed without a chance to confront the charges against them:

“To try a man under that act is, in effect, to condemn him unheard. A person is brought hither in the dungeon of a

ship’s hold; thence he is vomited into a dungeon on land; loaded with irons, unfurnished with money, unsupported by friends, three thousand miles from all means of calling upon or confronting evidence, where no one local circumstance that tends to detect perjury, can possibly be judged of,—such a person may be executed according to form, but he can never be tried according to justice.”

Burke saw a connection between the continuous violence of the war in America and the contempt shown for civil liberties at home:

“Power in whatever hands is rarely guilty of too strict limitations on itself.”

“Not one unattacked village which was originally adverse throughout that vast continent, has yet submitted from love or terror. You have the ground you encamp on; and you have no more. The cantonments of your troops and your dominions are exactly of the same extent. You spread devastation, but you do not enlarge the sphere of authority.”

Having failed to anticipate the difficulties of the war, the administration blamed the chaotic result on militias organized by

the enemies of the empire. Burke, on the contrary, believed that the resistance was largely spontaneous, that it was becoming more virulent because of the presence of an occupying army and that its cause lay in human nature:

“General rebellions and revolts of an whole people never were encouraged, now or at any time. They are always provoked.”

“If any ask me what a free government is, I answer that, for any practical purpose, it is what the people think so; and that they, and not I, are the natural, lawful,

and competent judges of this matter.”

Not only the outlines but many details of Burke’s analysis show an uncanny resemblance to what critics of the Bush administration have said; so it may be asked what deeper continuity of political life accounts for the strength of the parallel. A tentative answer seems possible. When imperial conquest is grafted onto the normal structures of constitutional government, the change will produce grotesque distortions of thinking that undermine judgment and common sense.

Nation

Service honors slain hostage Paul Johnson



EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—Relatives of an engineer slain by kidnappers in Saudi Arabia said Saturday they hope his legacy is one of peace in the land he grew to love during more than a decade abroad. The statement from the family of Paul M. Johnson Jr., read by a clergyman after a memorial service, also implored Saudi and U.S. authorities to find his body.

“When history is written on the war on terrorism, let Paul’s death be the catalyst that led to thousands more Westerners working in harmony with people in the Middle East to ensure fear and barbaric acts against free peoples come to an end,” the Rev. Kyle Huber said. Johnson, 49, an engineer for Lockheed Martin who worked on Apache helicopters, was abducted June 12 by a group calling itself al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

Johnson’s beheading was made public on a Web site on June 18. His body has not been found, but Saudi security forces said they killed the head of the cell that kidnapped him hours after the video footage was posted.

“Paul loved Saudi Arabia and its people. He gave over 10 years of his life to his work, much of which benefited the Saudi military,” the family said in the statement read by Huber. “The Saudi government owes him and our family more answers surrounding his death and their continued best ef-

A couple attending the memorial service for Paul Johnson Jr. hold hands as Pastor Kyle Huber, center left, walks away after reading a statement from the family at Greentree Church in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., Saturday, June 26, 2004.

Beheadings fuel backlash against Muslims

EAGLESWOOD TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—The recent beheadings of two American businessmen in the Middle East have added fuel to the angry backlash against Arab-Americans and Muslims that began after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The murders of Paul Johnson and Nicholas Berg triggered hate mail, verbal attacks and anti-Muslim signs. Muslims received death threats and their mosques were vandalized.

“Since 9/11, every time there is an incident overseas attributed to Muslims or Arabs, we go on orange alert ourselves,” said immigration lawyer Sohail Mohammed. “There are individuals here who are off the wall, who

forts to locate his remains.”

The 45-minute service, attended by about 120 people, was the first public appearance by Johnson’s family since relatives pleaded for his release.

Steps to the church’s pulpit were adorned with flowers, along with a picture of Johnson and his wife. Outside the church sanctuary, a floral arrangement from Lockheed Martin featured a photograph of Johnson and co-workers posing in front of an Apache helicopter.

“We are here to support a family that has been placed under a terrible burden,” Huber said during the service.

think that every woman who wears a hijab or every man named Mohammed is out to blow things up.”

Al-Qaida-linked militants in Saudi Arabia decapitated Johnson, an American engineer, after warning that they would kill him if the Saudi government did not release jailed comrades. Berg met a similar fate last month in Iraq.

Following Johnson’s death, anti-Islam signs surfaced around the rural New Jersey neighborhood where he once lived. One read “Stamp Out Islam” next to a drawing of a boot over a crescent and star. Another, hung on a mailbox next door to Johnson’s sister’s home, was more detailed.

During the service, Johnson’s mother, Delores Johnson, was presented with an American flag by a family friend who arranged the ceremony. Attendees sang hymns and “God Bless America.”

“Today your love is hurting,” Huber said. “Deep loss, anger, an evil action that cannot be understood all weigh heavily upon your hearts.”

Johnson grew up in Eagleswood Township and relatives still live nearby.

His wife, who is from Thailand, is expected to come to the United States to be with his family, said Huber. He did not know when that would happen.

retirement fund

thank you

US awaits conclusive mad cow results

By IRA DREYFUSS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Government and beef industry officials urged consumers Saturday not to worry about the safety of meat as they await conclusive results of tests to determine whether the United States has a new case of mad cow disease.

State-level agriculture officials, meanwhile, wondered whether the animal detected in preliminary tests was from their areas. Until more exacting tests are done, the Agriculture Department would not identify the animal, the state it came from or the facility in which it was killed. The follow-up process could take four to seven days, the department said Friday in announcing the preliminary test result.

A screening test designed to

give rapid results had indicated the animal had mad cow, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. Such tests cannot confirm whether the animal truly had the brain-wasting disease, so the department labels the results inconclusive.

The more exacting tests were being done at the department's National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, which diagnosed in December the nation's only confirmed case of BSE, in a Washington state Holstein.

"The inconclusive result does not mean we have found another case of BSE in this country," Dr. John Clifford, deputy administrator of the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said when he announced the preliminary finding. "Inconclusive results are a normal part of most screening tests."

The department remains confident in the safety of food in the United States, Clifford said. Meat from the animal did not enter the human food supply or livestock feed, he said. Keeping the carcass out of the supply chain is one of several federal safeguards against introduction of BSE into the food supply. These include rules that bar use of the most potentially at-risk cattle parts, such as brains and spinal cords.

People who eat products containing the protein can contract a rare but fatal disease similar to BSE, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The new preliminary results announced Friday was done at an unidentified regional laboratory under an expanded BSE surveillance program. Under the expansion, the department was increasing testing by about

tenfold, to more than 200,000 animals, over 12 to 18 months. The regional labs, run by states, began their work June 1, and Clifford said more than 7,000 cattle have been tested under the expanded system.

However, Tom Devine, legal director of the Government Accountability Project, a private watchdog group, maintained Saturday that the USDA surveillance is "systematically flawed" and that the potential new case "is only the tip of the iceberg."

He said the system is "designed to miss many of the mad cow suspects" and that the consensus of the science community is that "the sample is too small even to draw conclusions about trends."

Officials in several states said they had received no word from the government that their states were involved in the new incident.



APE EXHIBIT

Researchers check out the apes at the Lincoln Park Zoo's new Regenstein Center for African Apes on Tuesday, June 22, 2004, in Chicago. The new \$26 million habitat brings realism and interaction to a new level. Zoo officials are hoping the exhibit's realistic indoor and outdoor environments will leave visitors with a new respect for apes and give scientists a chance to learn more about them.

Clarke calls Iraq war 'enormous mistake'

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The invasion of Iraq was an "enormous mistake" that is costing untold lives, strengthening al-Qaida and breeding a new generation of terrorists, former White House counterterrorism czar Richard Clarke said Saturday.

"We did exactly what al-Qaida said we would do—invalidate and occupy an oil-rich Arab country that wasn't threatening us in any way," Clarke said before giving the keynote address at the American Library Association's annual convention in Orlando. "The hatred that has been engendered by this invasion will last for generations."

Clarke, a counterterrorism adviser to the past three presidents, wrote the book "Against All Enemies," which strongly criticizes the Bush administration for making Iraq a top priority and for underestimating warnings about al-Qaida before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Clarke said the United States will lose the war on terrorism if it loses the battle of ideas against extremists in the Middle East.

"We won the Cold War by, yes, having good strong military forces but also by competing in the battle of ideas against the Communists," Clarke later told the librarians. "We have to do that with the jihadists."

The United States' ideological credibility has been undermined by revelations of the mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison and the release of documents that showed U.S. government attorneys conducted a legal analysis of what constituted torture, Clarke said.

Clarke took issue with some elements of filmmaker Michael Moore's new documentary, "Fahrenheit 9/11," which depicts how the Bush administration allowed Saudi nationals and members of Osama bin Laden's family to leave the United States days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Hitler image used in Bush campaign web ad

WASHINGTON (AP)—Adolf Hitler's image has surfaced again in the White House race. President Bush's campaign contains online video, removed from a liberal group's Web site months ago and disavowed, that features the Nazi dictator.

The Bush Internet video, which was sent electronically to 6 million supporters, intersperses clips of speeches by Democrats John Kerry, Al Gore and Howard Dean with the footage of Hitler.

Democrats want the video pulled from the site. Campaign aides said it would remain.

Republicans had criticized the group MoveOn.org in January because it briefly posted an ad contest entry that linked Hitler and Bush. It showed images of Bush with text saying, "God told me to strike at al-Qaida," before turning to images of Hitler with the words, "And then He instructed me to strike at Saddam." The submission ended with the words, "Sound familiar?" on

a black and white screen.

The group later said the entry was in "poor taste" and pulled it from its site.

The 77-second video on the Bush-Cheney re-election site splices footage of Kerry, the presumptive nominee, and his 2004 rival Dean along with 2000 nominee Gore and film director Michael Moore. The spot calls them Kerry's "Coalition of the Wild-eyed." Clips of Hitler's image are seen throughout the spot.



RAINBOW PARADE

Festival goers hold on to a large rainbow flag stretching several blocks down Central Ave., after the St. Pete Pride Promenade in St. Petersburg, Fla., Saturday, June 26, 2004.

McCain: US should offer naturalization

PHOENIX (AP)—The "human tragedy" of illegal immigrants dying and being abused as they attempt to enter the United States will continue until the federal government acknowledges the important economic role undocumented workers play, Sen. John McCain told Hispanic leaders Saturday.

"It is in our national interest to bring the 8 to 12 million undocumented immigrants out of the shadows and allow them an

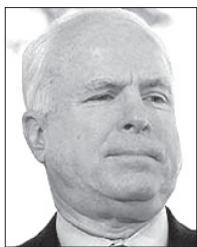
opportunity to become citizens of this great nation," McCain said at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza, a civil rights group and political think tank dedicated to promoting Hispanic issues.

The Arizona Republican said federal policy and border enforcement have failed to alleviate the deaths of migrants crossing the sweltering Southwest deserts and the violence

of smugglers who often hold immigrants for ransom once they reach America.

An example of the government's wrongheaded approach, McCain said, is its recent introduction of unmanned aerial vehicles in Arizona that use thermal and night-vision equipment to help Border Patrol agents spot illegal immigrants.

"That ignores the fundamental problem," he said. "Where there's a demand, there's a supply ... There's a demand for people to fill jobs that Americans won't do."



McCain



Two bodies, helicopter found in La. bay

INTRACOASTAL CITY, La. (AP)—A three-day search for a missing helicopter ended Saturday when the wreckage of the aircraft was found, along with the bodies of two of the three men who had been aboard.

Local authorities continued to look for the third man in a shallow, muddy area of Vermilion Bay about two miles southeast of Intracoastal City, after the Coast Guard called off its search.

The Coast Guard said the helicopter, a Bell 206L, left Eugene Island Thursday afternoon en route to Abbeville, then changed course to Intracoastal City about 40 minutes later. The helicopter reportedly sent out a mayday call during stormy weather about 25 miles from Intracoastal City.

On Saturday, the Coast Guard identified the three men aboard as pilot Dan Ditwiler, 51, of Tennessee, John Lewis, 50, of Lafayette, and Kell Anthony Thibodeaux, 39, of Abbeville. Lewis and Thibodeaux worked for a petroleum company, said Petty Officer Nick Cangemi, a Coast Guard spokesman.

Neither of the bodies recovered had been identified as of late Saturday.

Report: CIA halts interrogation tactics

WASHINGTON (AP)—The CIA has suspended use of some White House-approved aggressive interrogation tactics employed to extract information from reluctant al-Qaida prisoners, The Washington Post said.

Citing unnamed intelligence officials, the newspaper reported in Sunday's editions that what

the CIA calls "enhanced interrogation techniques" were put on hold pending a review by Justice Department and other lawyers.

The techniques include such things as feigned drowning and refusal of pain medication for injuries.

The paper quoted current and former CIA officers aware of the recent decision as saying the suspension reflects the agency's concern about being accused of unsanctioned and illegal activities, as it was in the 1970s.

The decision applies to CIA facilities around the world, but not to military prisons at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and elsewhere, the Post said. A CIA spokesman declined to comment on the issue, it said.

Greens reject endorsement for Ralph Nader

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Green Party nominated Texas attorney David Cobb as its candidate for president Saturday, rejecting Ralph Nader's efforts to secure the party's formal endorsement and likely access to the ballot in key states like Wisconsin and California.

Nader, the party's candidate in 1996 and 2000, had told Green officials months ago he would not accept the party's nomination for president, preferring to build a coalition of third-party groups and independents rather than running under one banner.

Still, he openly courted their formal endorsement as a means to get on the ballot in the 22 states and Washington, D.C., where the party has a ballot line.

But 408 delegates voted for Cobb on the second ballot to give him the nomination.

Asia

Pakistan's PM resigns, dissolves Cabinet

By PAUL HAVEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister stepped down and ordered his Cabinet dissolved Saturday following months of speculation over his worsening relationship with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the nation's ultimate power broker.

Zafarullah Khan Jamali announced his decision at a meeting of his PML-Q party. Party chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, a military loyalist from one of the country's most influential families, was nominated to replace him.

Jamali's resignation raised questions about the pace of this nation's return to

democracy five years after Musharraf's bloodless coup in 1999.

But the change was unlikely to dramatically alter Pakistan's commitment to either the U.S.-led war on terror or fledgling peace talks with nuclear rival India—matters that are firmly in Musharraf's hands.

Hussain was all but certain to win the required vote of confidence in Parliament, where the party has a majority. A vote was expected within days.

But his days as prime minister might be numbered.

Outgoing Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Hussain would be a caretaker prime minister and would eventually give way to Finance Minister

Shaukat Aziz—a senator who must gain a seat in the lower house of Parliament before he can be nominated.

Jamali said he hoped his resignation would help the nation's political process, but he didn't elaborate.

Pakistan has been on a long and bumpy road from dictatorship to some form of recognized democracy. It won re-admittance in May to the Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies, after an embarrassing suspension following Musharraf's coup.

Post-coup constitutional amendments empower the general to



Jamali

dismiss the prime minister and Parliament. He and Jamali had met earlier Saturday. Jamali insisted he had stepped down and not been fired.

Opposition lawmaker Liaquat Baluch accused Musharraf of trying to ensure that no strong political rival can emerge.

"They stoked the fire around Jamali and then pushed him into it," said Baluch, a member of the six-party religious coalition opposed to Musharraf. "The military rulers want to maintain their supremacy so that no political government is stable."

Observers say Musharraf had grown impatient at Jamali's inability to rein in opposition lawmakers and or to effectively defend the government's actions.

Jamali had insisted as recently as Friday that he wouldn't resign. But a day later, he did.

"It takes courage to resign," he said. "But I am not feeling that bad, because I have resigned from other positions in my life. This is nothing new for me."

Jamali, one of Pakistan's most seasoned politicians, became prime minister in November 2002 after the PML-Q, which supports Musharraf, won the most seats in elections the month before.

ASEAN officials eye regional security pact

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—South-east Asian countries meeting this week may sign a regional security pact to counter rising fears about terrorism, but draft proposals stress the plan would not involve a military alliance or joint foreign policy, officials said Sunday.

Foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations are also expected to express support for the six-nation talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear programs.

ASEAN senior officials held their second day of talks Sunday in Ja-

karta to set the agenda for a foreign minister's meeting on Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday, the ministers will hold talks with envoys from 14 other governments including North and South Korea, China, Japan, the European Union and the United States at the annual ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia's largest security meeting.

The ministers will consider a plan to establish a so-called "ASEAN security community" that would bring the region's "political and security cooperation to a higher plane," according to a draft document.

Talks on North Korea nuclear program end

BEIJING (AP)—Envoys ended six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear program Saturday with a promise to discuss steps toward dismantling it and to meet again by September, but they cautioned that the U.S. and North Korean positions remained far apart.

The four-day talks produced no breakthroughs, but diplomats said they agreed to discuss how to define the North's initial moves toward disarmament, how they would be monitored and what kind of aid the impoverished nation could expect in return.

"The problems start from here,"

said Japan's chief delegate, Mitoji Yabunaka. "This is the first step, at the entrance. From now starts the work on concrete measures."

A key issue appeared to be how far North Korea had to go to qualify for energy aid and other benefits offered by Washington, which is demanding that the North dismantle the program completely.

Other participants were China, Russia and South Korea.

"It's difficult to say this round of talks was a big success, but there was a progress somewhat with the United

States showing a forthcoming attitude," said Koh Yu-hwan, a professor at Seoul's Dongguk University.

"The talks won't end with one or two more meetings," said Koh. "But I think there will be progress little by little in the future because they were able to make general outlines."

Two previous rounds of six-nation talks, held at a walled government guesthouse in Beijing, produced no major progress on the stated goal of North Korea's negotiating partners: a nuclear weapon-free Korean Peninsula.

dpw0123

dpw024

Bomb kills two Afghan election workers

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A bomb tore through a bus carrying female election workers Saturday on their way to register women for the country's first post-Taliban vote, killing two of them and injuring 13 others.

It was the bloodiest attack yet in a string of violence targeting election workers, aimed at sabotaging the September vote. A spokesman for the Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The killings add to the pressure on NATO leaders meeting in Turkey this week to send more peacekeepers ahead of the polls, amid warnings from the United Nations that

security must improve.

U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai condemned the bombing and blamed "enemies of peace and prosperity" in Afghanistan. He urged voters not to be intimidated.

U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said two women were killed, and 11 women and two children were wounded in the attack on the outskirts of the city of Jalalabad, 75 miles east of Kabul. The bus was taking a group of female election workers to register women voters in an outlying district.

Four of the injured were in critical condition, including a child who was traveling with his mother. The bomb was believed planted inside the bus.

The driver fled just before the

blast, but was later arrested and was in Afghan custody, the U.N. spokesman said.

Abdul Hakim Latifi, who claims to speak for the Taliban, said the bomb was detonated by remote control, and threatened more violence.

"We will not forgive any man or woman who is supporting U.S. policies. We will continue this kind of attack to make sure the elections fail," Latifi said in a telephone call from an undisclosed location.

De Almeida e Silva said the movement of female election staff was restricted after the attack as the security situation was assessed, but registration of women voters was continuing "wherever possible." He did not elaborate.

The United Nations is helping to organize the election that Karzai and his American backers are adamant should go ahead in September despite growing security fears.

Critics accuse Washington of pushing for a quick vote so President Bush, who ordered the U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban in late 2001, can claim a foreign policy success in bringing democracy to Afghanistan before the U.S. election in November.

So far, only about half of estimated total of eligible Afghan voters are registered, and many of those live in relatively secure cities. Registration is lagging in remote rural areas in the south and east where the

insurgency is strongest.

About one-third of the 4.5 million people signed up so far are women.

Because of religious and cultural sensitivities in this deeply Islamic country, voter registration is segregated between the sexes. In conservative areas of Pashtun-dominated southern and eastern Afghanistan female electoral staff sometimes go door-to-door to encourage women to register.

De Almeida e Silva said staff in eastern Afghanistan had been successful in getting women to sign up. "The killers probably wanted to stop this momentum toward broad female participation. They will not reach their goal," he said.

Remains of S. Korean hostage return home

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—The body of a South Korean worker who was kidnapped and beheaded in Iraq was brought back to his hometown Saturday, his coffin draped in the national flag and escorted by a police honor guard in white dress uniforms.

Sobbing mourners watched as Kim Sun-II's remains were transferred from a South Korean military transport plane to a hearse. The body was then taken to a local hospital where a memorial altar was set up for the public to pay respects.

"I am sorry we failed to save you. I am too ashamed to look at you now," his father, Kim Jong-gyu, was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

Kim, a 33-year-old worker at a company supplying the U.S. military, was killed by militants Tuesday after the South Korean government refused to bow to their demand that it stop its troop deployment there.

The beheading stunned the nation, triggering criticism of the government's handling of the kidnapping and renewing debate over the planned dispatch of 3,000 South Korean troops beginning in August.

Nightly candlelight vigils have been held to mourn Kim and oppose the troop dispatch. The killing has also emboldened a group of lawmakers, many from President Roh Moo-hyun's ruling Uri Party, to submit a resolution to Parliament urging the government to reconsider the deployment.

Thousands gathered in downtown Seoul for a rally Saturday night, many holding photos of the slain South Korean while chanting for the government to reverse its troop dispatch decision.

Kim's body arrived at Incheon International Airport outside Seoul earlier in the day aboard a Korean Air flight from Dubai. It was transferred to a military aircraft for the short flight to his hometown of Busan, on the country's southeast coast.

A police honor guard escorted Kim's coffin on the tarmac in both locations.

Before the tragedy, Kim, a devout Christian, had written several e-mails to a friend back home, saying he regularly held worship services with his Korean and Iraqi colleagues, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Saturday.

In one of those e-mails, Kim said he planned to marry a Christian Iraqi woman at his company, Yonhap said.

Roh, the president, has ordered an investigation into the government's handling of the kidnapping amid questions about whether officials could have done more to secure his release.

The Foreign Ministry has acknowledged that it was asked in early June whether a South Korean was missing in Iraq—several weeks before Kim was beheaded by Islamic militants.

3 Abu Sayyaf killed in southern RP

BONGAO, Philippines (AP)—Government troops killed a local commander of a Muslim extremist group who allegedly orchestrated a raid on a tugboat earlier this year and took three crewmembers hostage, the military said Saturday. Two of his supporters were also killed.

A navy special warfare group clashed early Friday with about 30 guerrillas from the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group in a remote village outside the town of Languyan in Tawi-Tawi, the Philippines' southernmost province, group commander Capt. Feliano Angue said.

Ayub Bakil, an Abu Sayyaf leader in Tawi-Tawi, was killed along with his brother, Jaber, and his nephew, Basil.

Angue said Bakil and his men may have been looking for new hideouts in the village of Maraming when troops, who were informed by civilians of their presence, surprised the guerrillas. The other guerrillas escaped following the hour-long gunfight. Two civilian informers were wounded.

Bakil's men allegedly took two Malaysians and one Indonesian hostage after raiding the tugboat Ocean 2 on April 11 in waters close to Tawi-Tawi.

The captives were not with Bakil's Abu Sayyaf band during Friday's clash, Angue said.

Angue said the Philippine navy is closely coordinating with Malaysian forces in Sabah to rescue the hostages and prevent the gunmen's escape.

Bakil's group last month freed three Indonesians and a Filipino whom they kidnapped in October from a resort in the nearby eastern Malaysian state of Sabah after a private Malaysian negotiator reportedly paid an undetermined amount of ransom.

Angue said some of the funds were used to buy more arms for the Abu Sayyaf, which is on the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations.



FLOOD SEASON

Cycle rickshaws wade through ankle-deep water after a heavy rain in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Saturday, June 26, 2004. Monsoon flood waters have killed five people, marooned at least half a million others in their villages and destroyed crops, road, rail lines in Bangladesh, officials said.

RP govt won't help rebels get off terrorist lists

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Philippines Foreign Minister Delia Albert said the government will not help Communist rebels get off lists of terrorist groups in the United States and the European Union.

The government will look at other issues raised by the rebels during the past week's peace talks in Norway, including the release of political prisoners and social and economic development projects, "but the issue

on the terrorist list is not negotiable," she said Friday.

Communist rebels expressed disappointment Friday with the peace talks with Philippine government envoys in Oslo, but said they remain committed to solving the 35-year conflict.

The third round of talks this year tackled such issues as the rebels' outrage at being listed as a terrorist group, human rights issues, the release of political prisoners and social

and economic reforms.

Albert said in an interview that about a year ago, the government reported all activities by the Communist rebels, organized in the National Democratic Front umbrella group, including political assassinations, collecting ransom money and kidnapping.

"Countries felt that this was a strong case to have them in the terrorist list. This meant, of course, that their funding for

their activities ceased," she said in an interview.

After the funding stopped, the rebels "agreed to come to the negotiating table" for the first time in years, she added.

"It's been a long-drawn challenge, but the return to the negotiating table, of course, is welcome as far as we are concerned so we can at least discuss what the issues are," Albert said.

But the terrorist lists aren't up for discussion, she said.

Possible Islamic rebels kill 12 in Kashmir

JAMMU, India (AP)—Suspected Islamic rebels raided a village Saturday in Indian-controlled Kashmir and shot to death 12 Muslims while they slept, police said, a day before talks between India and Pakistan on easing tensions in the Himalayan region.

A woman and a 3-year-old were among the dead in the village of Surankot, police said, but most of those killed were members of a military-trained local village security force often targeted for helping government forces.

Elsewhere, some 50 men and women were trapped inside a mosque for two hours during a gunfight between security forces and suspected Islamic militants in Litter village, 40 miles south of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

They were freed after the militants shifted to an adjoining



Doctors of Jammu Medical College treat Shoki, 8, an injured boy of suspected Islamic rebel attack, in Jammu, India, Saturday.

building, a police official said on condition of anonymity. The gunbattle continued. Two militants and a soldier were killed in the fighting, police said.

The violence came on the eve of talks between India and Pakistan in New Delhi on their dispute over Kashmir, the subject

of two of three wars between the two nuclear-armed rivals since they gained independence in 1947.

No one claimed responsibility for the killings in Surankot, 190 miles north of Jammu, the state's winter capital.

Eight other people were

wounded, four critically, in the attack, said P.L. Gupta, a police inspector-general.

A dozen rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan. More than 65,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the conflict.

The two days of talks between foreign secretaries are the most recent peace initiatives launched with a summit in January. A week ago, the neighbors agreed to create a new nuclear hot line to reduce the risk of war and affirmed their commitment to a nuclear test ban.

But the two countries haven't held substantive talks on the Kashmir dispute since 1998, and this weekend's meeting was seen as a way to restart the negotiations—without high expectations for an immediate breakthrough.

World

Three Turks held in Iraq, blast kills 19



Image from a video released to the Al-Jazeera television network Saturday June 26, 2004 showing three Turkish men kidnapped by the Tawhid and Jihad movement, allegedly led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

By FISNIK ABRASHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Militants loyal to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said Saturday they have kidnapped three Turkish workers and threatened to behead them in 72 hours, heightening tensions as President Bush visited Turkey.

In new violence, an explosion possibly from a car bomb ripped through downtown Hillah, a largely Shiite Muslim city south of Baghdad, killing 19 people and wounding around 60, a senior Iraqi police official said. The official described the blast as a vicious attack on Iraqi civilians.

The bloodshed and the abduction—the latest claimed by al-Zarqawi's movement, which beheaded two previous hostages, an American and a South Korean—threatened to cast a shadow over a NATO summit opening in Istanbul Monday, where Bush is seeking the alliance's help in stabilizing Iraq.

The kidnappers demanded the Turks hold demonstrations protesting the visit by the "criminal" Bush and that Turkish companies stop work-

ing in Iraq, or else the hostages would be killed.

Iraq's interim prime minister warned that if security does not improve, it may become necessary to delay national elections set for January—a key landmark in the path to democracy that the United States has tried to enshrine before handing power to the Iraqis on Wednesday.

The Jan. 31 deadline for elections laid out in Iraq's interim constitution is "not absolute yet ... But we hope, and all of us will work toward that objective," Allawi told CBS News in an interview.

"However, security will be (the) main feature of whether we will be able to do it in January, February or March," he said.

In central Baghdad, insurgents killed a U.S. soldier in an attack on a patrol Saturday, the military said.

Gunmen launched new attacks in the city of Baqouba, northeast of the capital, sparking battles that killed six insurgents and three civilians. The city was the scene of fierce fighting in a surprise offensive launched by al-Zarqawi on Thursday.

The Arab television station

Al-Jazeera aired a video issued by the kidnappers, showing the three Turks kneeling on the ground in front of two black-clothed gunmen and a black banner emblazoned "Tawhid and Jihad," the name of al-Zarqawi's organization. The men held up Turkish passports.

In a written statement, the group demanded Turkish companies stop doing business with American forces in Iraq and called for "large demonstrations" in Turkey against the visit of "Bush the criminal."

It said that if Turkey refused their demands the hostages "will receive the just punishment of being beheaded."

Al-Jazeera received the tape Saturday, an employee at the station told The Associated Press. The statement did not say when or where the three were abducted. It appeared the deadline was Tuesday, but the message did not specify what time it runs out.

The three men disappeared two days ago, said a Turkish consular official in Baghdad who asked to be identified only by his surname, Gungor. He said he had no further information.

Bush looks to seal NATO deal on Iraq aid

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—With European Union support in hand, President Bush looked to seal an agreement for NATO to help stabilize Iraq as its fledgling government takes over this week. He shrugged off lingering European resentment of the war, saying "We'll just let the chips fall where they may."

NATO announced an initial agreement to help train Iraq's armed forces hours after Bush won support Saturday from the 25-nation European Union. Nineteen of NATO's 26 members overlap in the EU.

As the path for NATO involvement appeared to open up, the EU took a gentle swipe at Bush over abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of American soldiers. The final communique declared, "We stress the need for full respect of the Geneva Conventions," an unstated but obvious reference to the Abu Ghraib prison scandal and the U.S. treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and elsewhere. The conventions refer to international accords setting out guidelines for the humane treatment of prisoners.

With Bush standing beside him, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern told a news conference in Ireland, "These things, unfortunately, happened. We wish they didn't, but they do. And what's important then is how they're dealt with, how things improve for the future."

Later aloft Air Force One on his way to the NATO summit in Ankara, Bush said U.S. armed forces are committed to complying with the conventions and that the acts of abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq



Turkish left-wing demonstrator takes a stone to hurl to the police during a protest in Ankara, Saturday June 26, 2004, ahead of U.S. President George W. Bush's arrival in the country.

Turkey police fire tear gas at protesters

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish police fired tear gas at more than 150 left-wing demonstrators who hurled rocks and tried to smash through a barricade in Ankara on Saturday, just hours before President Bush arrived for a NATO summit.

Police used bomb-detecting dogs to comb the area around the hotel where Bush is expected to stay, and security officials closed streets throughout the capital, part of a massive operation following Thursday bombings in Ankara and Istanbul that killed four people and injured 17.

Also Saturday, supporters of Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said they had kidnapped three Turkish workers in Iraq, Arab TV station al-Jazeera reported.

An al-Jazeera employee told The Associated Press that the group threatened to behead the hostages within 72 hours if Turkish companies did not withdraw from Iraq.

Bush is unpopular in Turkey, where the overwhelming majority of the public opposed the war in neighboring Iraq. If Turkish hostages were executed in Iraq, that could considerably increase tensions.

were wrong. Bush issued the statement on a United Nations international day in support of victims of torture.

Bush is widely unpopular in Turkey, and his arrival Saturday in Ankara was preceded by a series of protests and bomb blasts, including one Thursday that injured three people outside the

Ankara hotel where he will stay. Another blast that day on an Istanbul bus killed four people and injured 14. On Saturday, Turkish police fired tear gas at more than 150 left-wing demonstrators hurled rocks and used sticks to try and break down a police barricade during a protest ahead of Bush's arrival.

pss015



AP
Israeli soldiers operate in the Old City of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, Saturday June 26, 2004.

Israel troops kill 7 Palestinians in raid

By ALI DARAGHMEH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NABLUS, West Bank (AP)—Acting on a tip, Israeli troops ambushed Palestinian militants holed up in an underground tunnel Saturday, killing seven fugitives including the most-wanted man in the West Bank.

Army commanders said the killing of the fugitives was the main goal of a three-day operation to root out militants in the West Bank city of Nablus. Troops began withdrawing from the center of the city soon after the raid.

Soldiers also killed an eighth militant during an earlier raid in Nablus, the largest West Bank city.

Also Saturday, Israeli border police clashed with hundreds of Palestinians protesting Israel's West Bank separation barrier, beating demonstrators and firing rubber bullets and water cannons to disperse the crowd.

The violence occurred in the Jerusalem suburb of A-Ram, an affluent area inhabited by Palestinians who left the city to escape overcrowding.

Dozens of people suffered from tear gas inhalation, and a news photographer was slightly wounded by police. A police spokesman said rioters threw stones, hammers and an ax.

Meanwhile, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called for a cease-fire with Israel during the Olympic games in Greece, scheduled for Aug. 13-29. He made the offer at a lighting ceremony for an unofficial Olympic torch.

"I declare our respect and commitment for an Olympic truce," Arafat said.

Israeli officials, who accuse Arafat of supporting militants, dismissed the offer as insincere.

Elsewhere, U.S. Mideast envoy William Burns met with Palestinian officials, seeking to build momentum for Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

"I stressed President Bush's determination to do everything that the United States can to help seize the opportunity presented by the Israeli initiative," Burns said after meeting Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia.

Burns praised Egypt's efforts

to help the withdrawal succeed. He also stressed that the Gaza pullback should be a step in the internationally backed "road map" peace plan, which envisions a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon refuses to negotiate with the Palestinians. Egypt, which borders Gaza, has served as a mediator and offered to train Palestinian forces ahead of the pullout, scheduled by September 2005.

Israeli military officials called the raid in Nablus a great success. An army commander, who identified himself only as Lt. Col. Itzik, said the men killed in the ambush were the main targets of the operation.

"We entered the city just to strike at these people, and no one else," Itzik said. "We have now completed the operation and we have left the old city in light of this success."

Palestinian witnesses confirmed that troops began withdrawing from the city center, the casbah, but remained on the outskirts of the neighborhood. Some 20,000 residents of the

casbah remained indoors after a three-day curfew, unsure if they could go outside.

The tracking of the militants began earlier in the day, when troops shot toward two armed men, killing one, Itzik said. The second man fled, and later entered a hole under a closet in a house that led to a tunnel where seven other militants were hiding, Itzik said.

When troops threw grenades into the opening of the tunnel, dug two floors underground, the suspect exited from a different opening, suffering from smoke inhalation, Itzik said. Troops shot and threw more grenades into the hiding place, killing the wanted militants inside.

Among the dead was Nayef Abu Sharkh, a leader in the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades. Palestinian and Israeli security sources said Abu Sharkh was Israel's most-wanted militant in the West Bank.

Military officials said Abu Sharkh was responsible for a January 2003 double suicide bombing that killed 23 people in Tel Aviv and another in November 2002 that killed two people.

Two US lawmakers inspect Sudan crisis

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Two U.S. Republican lawmakers arrived in Sudan on Saturday to inspect the humanitarian crisis in the embattled Darfur region, a U.S. Embassy official said.

Sen. Sam Brownback, from Kansas, and Rep. Frank Wolf, from Virginia, arrived in the capital, Khartoum, late Saturday, and are expected to travel to Darfur, in western Sudan, on Sunday, the official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

They made no comment to reporters on arrival.

Their visit to Darfur, scene of a 16-month conflict between black African villagers and Arab militiamen that has reportedly left 30,000 people dead and forced more than 1 million to flee their homes, will be the first by U.S. lawmakers to the region.

A similar trip is planned for next week by Secretary of State Colin Powell and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who plan to press Sudan's government to end the fighting.

Wolf, chairman of the subcommittee that controls the Justice Department's budget, and Brownback are to visit camps housing thousands of displaced villagers in El Fasher, capital of Sudan's North Darfur state, a Sudanese Foreign Ministry official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The lawmakers were expected to meet Sudanese government officials as well as members of the African Union committee monitoring the cease-fire agreement signed by the government and Darfur's two rebel groups—the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan

Liberation Army in April.

Foreign governments and human rights groups accuse Sudan's Islamic government of backing Arab militias in an ethnic cleansing campaign against African villagers. Sudanese officials reject the claims and say the warring sides are clashing over land and water resources.

Both sides accuse the other of violating the cease-fire deal.

In Ireland during an EU-U.S. summit Saturday, the European Union and the United States issued a joint statement strongly condemning the violence and called for a lasting peace agreement between warring factions.

On Friday, Annan raised the possibility of sending international troops to Darfur in case the Sudanese government was unable ensure the safety of the civilians in the area.

Latin America kidnappings spark protests

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Joshua Sierra's family wasn't rich. They lived in an apartment on Mexico City's gritty east side and hardly fit the mold of the affluent foreigners who have so often fallen prey to kidnappers.

But on a summer day last year, 2-year-old Joshua disappeared.

The abduction falls into a troubling trend taking hold across Latin America: Kidnappers are becoming more reckless, more brutal, and more random about whom they choose to snatch off the streets.

"Once they get you, they tend to be more violent, because they don't really have any coherent idea of how much money you have, or where you keep it," said Frank Holder, former head of Latin Ameri-

can operations for risk management company Kroll Inc. "They may decide to torture you to get that information."

Revulsion over such abductions sparked a week of protests this month by housewives in Mexico, while a fatal kidnapping in Argentina led tens of thousands to demonstrate in the streets of Buenos Aires in April. A similar mass rally is being held Sunday in Mexico City.

Joshua's story is a chilling illustration of the new tactics.

When the kidnappers seized the boy from his apartment, they left behind the strangled corpse of the toddler's 15-year-old cousin.

The family scraped together a \$10,000 ransom for Joshua, but the boy has not been returned. "We just want them to return

Joshua," said the boy's aunt, Yolanda Torres. "We have hopes that he is still alive."

Mexican officials claim kidnappings have been declining overall, even as the abductors' methods become more brutal.

Federal and state crime statistics indicate kidnappings peaked in 1997—with 1,047 known abductions—but even government officials concede the majority of kidnappings are never reported to police.

Kroll estimates Mexico has the second-highest number of kidnappings behind Colombia, where many abductions are political. The company estimates that in 2003, there were 4,000 kidnappings in Colombia, 3,000 in Mexico and 2,000 in Argentina.



TALLEST BIKE

Mennonite minister Terry Goertzen rides his 18 foot-high (5.5m) homemade bike to make it in the Guinness Book of World Records in Winnipeg, Canada on Saturday June 26, 2004. More than 200 people looked on as Goertzen broke the record for the world's tallest rideable bicycle.

Revelers parade for gay pride worldwide

BERLIN (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of revelers wearing everything from full Victorian garb and designer gowns to skimpy leather and construction hats celebrated gay pride in cities around the world Saturday.

Berlin saw one of Europe's largest parades. To the sound of thumping techno music, the city's openly gay Mayor Klaus Wowereit led floats in the 12th annual celebration of Christopher Street Day, commemorating the start of the gay rights movement in New York's Greenwich Village in 1969.

Police estimated that about 200,000 people snaked their way from the chic Kurfuerstendamm boulevard to the landmark Victory Column, while organizers said the crowd swelled beyond 500,000.

Wowereit told the cheering crowd that while the parade was "fun and colorful," the gay community still was marginalized.

"We must fight against that," he said.

Parents led the way in Mexico City as thousands marched to celebrate gay pride and promote tolerance.

With dance music blasting from floats carrying mostly young men, the march stretched across four lanes of traffic and measured about 10 city blocks as it wound from the Angel of Independence monument to Mexico City's central plaza.

"We have to keep up the fight, the peaceful fight" for homosexuals' rights, said Jorge Sanchez, 45, of Mexico City, whose T-shirt declared, "I love my gay son."

Life & Style

Life & Style

Mother stands her ground about letting kids near dog

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law bought a pit bull. Because I have small children and am concerned about their safety, I asked her not to bring the dog to my house. She agreed.

However, my in-laws frequently baby-sit our children. Although my mother-in-law promised that she would not allow the pit bull there when my children are at her home, my father-in-law now says that this places him in an awkward position. He doesn't want to choose between seeing his daughter—who likes to bring her pit bull with her everywhere—and having my kids there.

He has asked me to reconsider. I feel strongly that I should stand firm, even if it means my in-laws no longer baby-sit, which will be a loss to my children. What is your advice?

WORRIED MOM IN ANN ARBOR

DEAR WORRIED MOM: Small children should not be left unsupervised with any breed of dog. Children are unpredictable and could unwittingly do something to frighten or agitate the animal.

It would be nice if you and your sister-in-law could coordinate the visits of the kids and the dog. However, if that is not possible, unless you are absolutely certain that your children would not be injured, it's better to err on the side of caution and stand firm.

DEAR ABBY: Our 27-year-old college-educated daughter, "Peggy," has announced her engagement to a high school dropout with an abusive past and a rap sheet longer than my monthly grocery list. He supports two teenage children from a previous relationship and has been in and out of jail for assault and battery and DUIs.

Peggy has lived with him for the past year and has stopped speaking to us because we won't pay for the wedding. She and my parents feel we are wrong for not supporting her and paying for the wedding. What is your opinion on this? She is marrying him against our wishes.

UPSET PARENTS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR UPSET PARENTS: Please inform your daughter—and your parents—that a wedding is a GIFT, not an obligation on the part of the parents. For all of the reasons you have stated, you have ample reason not to pay for the wedding.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend in her early 40s who is dying of cancer. "Claire" had a Class II pap test years ago, but she never went back for a recheck.

Claire now has only a short time left. She leaves an adoring husband and three teenagers. Please remind your readers once again how important it is to follow through as instructed by their physician. My friend's death might have been prevented.

GRIEVING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GRIEVING: Sometimes people with many responsibilities place themselves low on their list of priorities. Your friend may have been one of those—or she may have been afraid to return to the doctor. But one thing is certain, whatever bad news the doctor might have to deliver, the WORST is that because the patient procrastinated the condition has become so advanced that it's impossible to treat.

P.S. Test results are usually available in about a week. If a patient hasn't heard from the doctor's office by then, the patient should contact the doctor.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Ozzy, James Brown mark Olympic torch run

LONDON (AP)—The Olympic torch traveled through London on a rainy Saturday, with Roger Banister hoisting the flame at Wimbledon to mark the start of a relay that ended with a concert near Buckingham Palace.

British tennis stars Tim Henman and Virginia Wade were among those to participate in the eight-hour run past such landmarks as the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Globe theater and Piccadilly Circus.

Other torchbearers representing Britain were track and field Olympic champions Sebastian Coe and Jonathan Edwards and former boxing champion Frank Bruno.

Tens of thousands packed The Mall near Buckingham Palace at the finish. Five-time Olympic rowing gold medalist Steve Redgrave used the flame to light a ceremonial cauldron on a stage where James Brown, Rod Stewart, Ozzy Osbourne and other stars performed.

The Royal Air Force's Red Arrows squadron flew overhead, trailing plumes of red, white and blue smoke.

"As we pass the flame on towards Athens, let us wish them well for their games," said Princess Anne, president of the British Olympic Association.

The British Broadcasting Corp. estimated that about 80,000 people lined The Mall to watch Redgrave end the 30-mile relay.

Bannister, who ran the world's first sub-4-minute mile



Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne on stage during the Olympic Torch Concert in The Mall, central London Saturday June 26, 2004.

50 years ago, held up the torch at Wimbledon's Royal Box to applause from about 9,000 fans huddled under umbrellas.

"The Olympics is a wonderful event and it symbolizes the union of all countries and all peoples," Banister said. "I am sure that Athens will put on a great games."

Rain wiped out plans to parade the torch around Centre Court, which was covered by a tarpaulin. Instead, the 75-year-old Banister carried the flame through the Wimbledon clubhouse and handed it to Henman.

He ran along a route lined by ball boys and girls, court stewards, police and firefighters and

"Henman Hill"—a grassy slope where ticketless fans watch his matches on a big screen.

Henman passed the torch to Wade, the last British player to win the singles title at the All England Club in 1977. Henman bowed and Wade curtsied before heading down Wimbledon Park Road.

The flame traveled on a traditional black London taxi toward the Brixton district. From there, it was carried on foot to Greenwich, where a boat took it across the Thames River.

Runners passed through the recently redeveloped Docklands area and the East End—the home of London's poorest residents—be-

fore reaching the Tower of London and crossing Tower Bridge.

The list of celebrity torchbearers included Heather Mills McCartney, wife of former Beatle Paul McCartney; and actress Parminder Nagra, star of the film "Bend it Like Beckham."

The torch is on the final European leg of a trip that featured stops for the first time in Africa and South America. London is the 23rd of 33 cities on the route.

The flame began its trek March 25 in the games' ancient birthplace at Olympia in Greece. It is to return to Greece July 9 and head to Athens for the start of the games Aug. 13.

Fantasia enjoys new home, new record

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A year ago, she was Fantasia Barrino, unemployed and borrowing money to pay rent on a one-bedroom apartment, where she spent days playing with her 1-year-old daughter, Zion.

Now, after winning the "American Idol" competition, she has a new \$500,000, 5,000-square-foot home, a new single in stores and a new outlook on life.

And a new name: just "Fantasia."

Her new digs aren't even furnished yet, but the 19-year-old singer invited The Associated Press over last week for a look at the bare walls and hardwood floors. With her puppy, "Diva," by her side, Barrino talked about preparations for three months of touring and her first single, "I Believe," which she first sang during the "Idol" finals and hit stores Tuesday.

AP: Did it feel the same to sing "I Believe" in the studio as it did on stage?

Fantasia: The words of the song are 'Finally, I believe,' and I always tell people that I always believed I would be a singer, and I always wanted to be. I worked hard at it, but I struggled to try to get it and when I heard the words of the song, I was like, 'Whoa, finally I believe.' I really do.

AP: Any plans for your album yet?

Fantasia: I want music for everybody. I want music that will encourage people if they are going through something.

AP: Are you finding it harder to stay yourself?

Fantasia: Nothing has really changed about me. I'm still the same old girl. I think the only thing that's changed now is that I have money in my pocket and I'm able to do for my family and for my child, and able to share my music with the world.

AP: Do you have a message for young mothers?

Fantasia: Just keep your head up because a lot of times when young women have kids, a lot of people seem to down them because you're not married and you're so young and had a child out of wedlock. ... If God forgave me, then you guys can forgive me too. ... If you're a single mom and you have a dream, go after it.

AP: How would you describe your life so far?

Fantasia: It was tough trying to get a job, it was tough trying to get money. I borrowed money from people and I don't have to do that no more. When I was crying when I won, I was crying about all that stuff. And I was like 'Gosh, I did it. I borrowed but I don't have to borrow anymore ...' I've been singing for a long time now, since I was 5 years old, trying to get out

there, trying to be heard. To me it wasn't all about the money, it was all about being in front of people and hopefully my music could encourage somebody.

AP: Your audition in Atlanta almost didn't happen, why?

Fantasia: We drove all the way to Atlanta with \$20 in our pocket. ... The first day everybody was in the Georgia Dome singing. ... They had karaoke going. ... The next morning they started the auditions and I said, 'I can't sing on an empty stomach ...' We left and we got back and there were about 25 of us and they wouldn't let us back in. ... I went back to my cousin's house in Atlanta and all of my family kept calling me. And my dad and everybody was saying, 'Maybe you should go back. Just go back, try it one more time ...' I stood in front of the door and the security guard who heard me sing at the karaoke came to the door and said, 'Did you audition?' And I said, 'No sir.' And he said, 'Why not?' And I said 'They won't let me back in.' So, he said, 'Oh, I gotta get you in.' He took me by my hand, took me in the building, and I was the last one on the field to audition.

AP: Is this what you envisioned it would be?

Fantasia: Yeah. Hard work, a lot of singing, a lot of traveling, and a lot of recording. And I used to watch and TV and say

'If they can do it, I can do it.' ... As long as you love what you do, then you're good.

AP: Where do you see yourself in five, 10 years?

Fantasia: I want to do everything. I want to do some acting, own my own clothing line, but most of all I want to do some centers around North Carolina, just some teen centers with a lot of stuff to do. ... There's a lot of young people out there on the streets who think that's what life is all about.

Someone asked me, 'Do you think you'll just be around for this, you win the Idol and you do a CD and you're gone?' I said, 'Nope, they're not gonna forget me. I'm not gonna let 'em. I'm gonna get on a cereal box if I have to, with Cap'n Crunch, whatever I have to do.'

AP: How does your daily life now compare to a year ago?

Fantasia: I wasn't working. I wasn't doing anything and Zion wasn't in daycare. ... I had my own little apartment and I would do her hair all day, watch movies. ... We would play dress-up. We had nothing to do. ... It's totally different now because I'm working really hard.

AP: How important is your family to where you are today?

Fantasia: As long as I had them by my side, and God on my side, I feel like I could do all things.

Pastimes
